

# Ames Heritage Association The Ames Intelligencer

Issue 3 of 4

■ Newsletter for A.H.A. Members ■

Summer 2003

■ The Ames Intelligencer was the first newspaper in the city of Ames ■

## Upcoming Special Events, Programs, Open Hours

### Enjoy Hallett's Photo Exhibit Through June 27

Story County Conservation Center at

#### McFarland Park

Photographer Janet Jepeway has been documenting Hallett's Quarry since its purchase by the City of Ames, and will continue as it is transformed into the Ada Hayden Heritage Park.

A selection of her photographs is on exhibit through June 27 at the Story County Conservation Center at McFarland Park. The photographs

are for sale; profits will be donated to quarry restoration.

For more information, contact Story County Conservation at 515-232-2516. The Conservation Center is located at 56461 180th St., north and east of Ames off Dayton Road. Co-sponsored by Story County Conservation Partners and AHA.

### Ames Heritage Museum Open Thursday Nights, June & July

The Ames Heritage Museum at 108 Fifth will be open Thursday evenings, 5-8pm in June and July. Come early for Band Concerts at Band Shell Park, and stop in!

### Bauge Log Home Offers a Peek into the Past

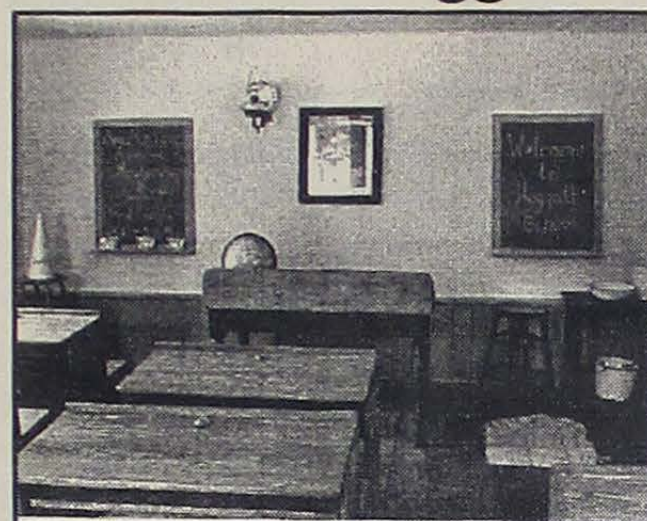


The Bauge log home opened for the season on Sunday, May 4 and will be open Sunday afternoons, 1 to 4 p.m., until September 28. Join log home tour guides for stories about Norwegian immigrant family life in Story County and farming in the 1890's.

Also open by appointment. Training sessions are available for new log home hosts; call Willie

Struss at 232-0865. Located at McFarland Park (north of 13<sup>th</sup> Street, Ames, on Dayton Road) Transportation available on Sundays from Conservation Center. Call 232-2516 or 232-0865 for information or to arrange tours. No admission; donations welcomed

### Ring in the Summer School Season at Hoggatt School



AHA's 1862 school museum is open for the season.

Public open hours are Saturdays & Sundays, 2-4:30 pm, June 1 - August 31.

What was school like in 1862? Come to Hoggatt School

to find out! Hoggatt School makes a great activity for scout or church groups, and is a fun destination for families or grandparent outings. The school house is also available to groups for pre-arranged visits from April 1 to October 31.

Located at 18<sup>th</sup> and Burnett on Meeker School grounds  
Call Carole Jensen, 233-2404 to arrange a tour or volunteer.  
Training for new school hosts is offered to those who would enjoy learning about early education and relating stories to visitors.  
No admission; donations welcomed

### Nils Bauge's Pioneer Story: Sunday, July 20, 2pm



#### Story County Conservation Center, McFarland Park

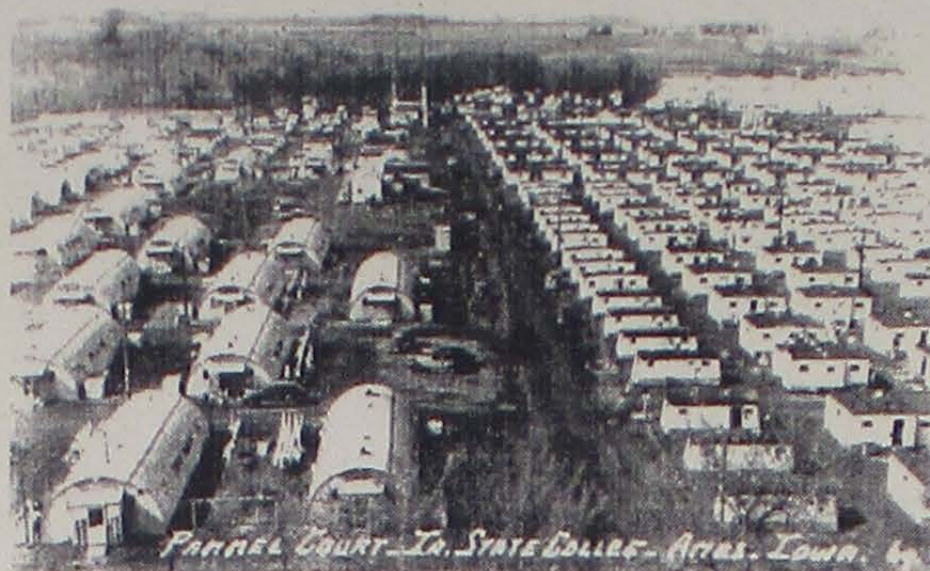
What was it like to leave your home country and travel toward an unknown future in a new land?

Hear the story of Norwegian settlement in Story County, as told in the persona of Nils Bauge, a Story County immigrant from Norway, a.k.a. Arlen Twedt of

Ankeny. The program will take place in the Conservation Center. Before the program or afterwards, tour the restored 1890 Bauge log farmstead that will be open 1-4pm that day.

Located at 56541 180th, north and east of Ames on Dayton Road.





## They Called it Silver City! Brief History of Pammel Court

With the end of WW2, veterans took full advantage of the "G.I. Bill." Iowa State College had to deal with a serious student housing shortage for a new breed of student: older-than-average ones who arrived on campus with their families.

In October 1945, Iowa State took the first steps to prepare for the influx of married couples by acquiring trailers and demountable houses from federal government war production sites where they were no longer needed (on the right in the photo above).

During the fall of 1946, the college received 734 barracks-type buildings, financed by the Federal Housing Authority

Located on Pammel Drive, Iowa State dubbed this new village "Pammel Court". The picture looks north from Pammel Drive. The shiny, metal buildings earned the glittering nickname of "Silver City".

In the late 1940's, monthly rent for a Pammel Court unit was \$22.50, which included water, electricity and fuel. In 1975, it was still very affordable at \$45 (not including electricity & fuel), making Pammel units very popular for married students.



Initially, Pammel Court was only for married WW2 veterans. In 1951, the units were opened to any married student. Pammel Court families

formed strong neighborhoods, sharing similar situations and watching each other's children. Pammel Court kids always had playmates.

The units that were south of the tracks were removed by 1967 when space for academic buildings was needed and newer housing units were built. Schilleter and University Villages were later built on the farmland seen in the top right corner of this photo.

## Famous for Odd Places: Post-WW II Student Housing in Ames: One Woman's Story

*Recollections of Josephine W. Hicks, Ames, IA*

I came to Ames after the war, when my husband, Ellis Hicks, was on the GI bill to complete his work for a Ph D. He had been drafted before it was finished.

There were thousands of new students suddenly descending on the campus and Ames. I think Ames homeowners were urged to help with housing. Pammel Court was "in the works"—beginning with trailers—[with] a nearby place for bathroom and shower facilities.



Then the quonset huts were put up with their own "essential" facilities, however, in the winter it was very cold - often icicles formed where two pieces of metal came together overhead. Down below, though, it was warm.

I don't think anyone complained much. The war was over - they were back in college with their new families, trying to live on the GI Bill.

No one had much money, but they were here to finish their education and they were happy, that's all that mattered.

The barracks were put up—one-bedroom units for couple with no children—2 bedroom units for couples with children. They didn't plan ahead—babies came fast when papa came home.

There were no home telephones for several years, even in the barracks units. But everyone "made do" with what they had and since all were "in the same boat," life went on happily.

We married in July and came in August 1946. We became good friends with Jayne Laffoon, whose husband, Jean, was in the same department as Ellis (Zoology-Entomology). She was a nurse and had a job at Mary Greeley. They had an old car that ran O.K. and they lived in a little apartment (across from where Taco Bell is now). We played bridge, and went to football and basketball games together.

Lots of people in Ames made a "spare bedroom" or something into an "apartment." There was a regulation board that wouldn't permit "high" rent unless the apartment had certain facilities, such as a kitchen or bathroom. I heard of (but never saw) one landlord who put a washbasin and toilet in the corner of a living room. There was no room



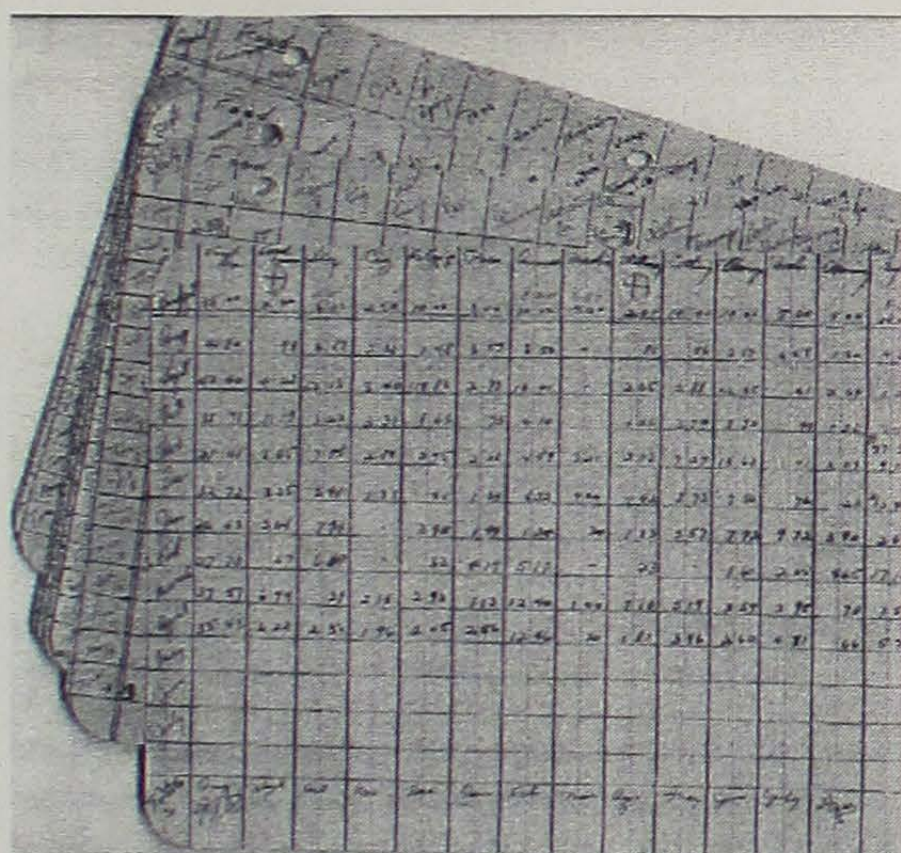
for a door - so a curtain was put up - if you sat on the toilet, your knees would push out the curtain. They got to raise the rent!

[One landlord in particular] was famous for odd places made into apartments. The students probably grumbled but they had to have a place to live if they were going to college and the facilities they endured during the war made them able to cope with whatever they had available here again—very few had nice apartments and the ones who didn't could exchange wild (but true) stories and wait until they could get into Pammel.

We were lucky. The secretary in Ellis' department mentioned that her father was building a little house for her and she needed to have a small apartment upstairs so she would have additional income. Ellis asked to rent it immediately (this was in late June—the house wasn't up yet). We were married in July and came to Ames in August.

Ellis' office mate offered their house to us while their family vacationed in August—1 month. In September, another couple loaned their apartment for two weeks. They were going "home" during break between summer school and beginning of fall term.

It was 2 rooms upstairs—enter thru bedroom and the other room had kitchen stove, small table and chairs and a davenport. The door out of that room opened into a back hallway where there was a refrigerator that we shared with the other apartment. We each had 2 shelves and shared the ice cubes. The bathroom with large sink was down the hall a bit and of course we shared that. We carried dirty dishes into the bathroom sink to wash.



Jo kept these monthly household accounting sheets the first year she and Ellis were married.

Then school was starting. We had to get out of that apartment. Mrs. M's new house and "our apartment" was not quite finished but almost. We moved our stuff over to the basement and spent 2 nights there. My mother brought over a card table with two chairs, some pots and pans and a two-burner hotplate. (That, placed on two orange crates, (free from Rushing Grocery) allowed us to cook and eat. An apartment size stove was not available for months. I used Mrs. M's refrigerator until she got a new one and moved her smaller frig up to our apartment.)

Then, on Sunday, Mrs. M. and her Dad arrived with a bed and a dresser and a chair. He got busy with the rest of the building and our apartment took shape. It was fun. Every weekend, she and her Dad would go to Clarion and bring back more furniture until we were filled and her downstairs area was filled.

Building supplies were hard to get - and one thing he couldn't get was door for the bathroom. It was small and under the eaves, so it needed a shorter door. It was several months before that "luxury item" arrived. I put up a curtain that was OK as a temporary effort for privacy. That apartment was so very much better than so many living quarters—we thought it was wonderful. We lived there 3 or 4 years until we bought a small house on Oakland.

Picture: Jo & Ellis Hicks, 1947



## Seeking Interviewees for "Ames Remembers World War II"

Ames Heritage Association's oral history project called AMES REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II will record World War II recollections of people who lived in Ames during the war years. If you were a child, a high school or college student, a homemaker, working in a store or office, working at an ordnance plant, or left Ames for the armed forces, your memories of the WW II era in Ames are important. AHA hopes to interview as many interested Ames residents as possible. The interviews will be compiled in a book.

**Please clip and send this sheet to Ames Heritage Association, PO Box 821, Ames, Iowa 50010.**

If you have questions, contact Cynthia D. Bennet, AHA's Community Programs Coordinator at 515-268-0356.

☐ Yes, I'm interested in being interviewed for the "AMES REMEMBERS WORLD WAR II" Project.

☐ And/Or I know someone else who might be interested in being interviewed for the project.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number \_\_\_\_\_

Year you were born \_\_\_\_\_

Best time to contact \_\_\_\_\_



Newly added shelving units at the museum have added to the storage capacity at AHA headquarters at 108 Fifth.

The museum will be open Thursdays from 5-8pm in June and July.



## Selected Recent Additions to the AHA Collection

Ruth Boast	AHS & Central archival material; Hansen house blueprints; Central yearbk. (1919)
Robert Pasley	Loja, Ecuador Sister City collection
Bernice Rouze	Burroughs adding machine used in Gates Plumbing
Leo Lawlor	Ames Daily Tribune issue for Jan. 4, 1954 featuring election of J. P. Lawlor as mayor
Gene Figura	Collegiate Mfg. Co. stuffed toy animal collection; original art work
Margaret Elbert	document appointing Louie M. Bosworth as Ames Postmaster (1910)
Gale Clem	NCR cash register used in Pammel Grocery; photos; fraternity wooden mug
Dennis Wendell	books on carpentry owned by W.F. Snook (1902), St. Cecilia Catholic Church membership book
Donna Carr	Carr family and Carr's Pool archival material
City of Ames	Bandshell artifacts: 2 vintage uniforms, 2 music stands, light fixture
Dan Rice	Historic Old Town Association records
Shirley Held	WWII ration stamps; OPA token
Betty Blagen	Bicentennial quilt documentation, centennial belle button



Close to 50 people attended the May 18 talk on the history of Hallett's Quarry, presented at McFarland Park's Conservation Center. Above, audience members browse a display of artifacts. The exhibit of Hallett's photographs by Janet Jepeway will continue through June 27.

Ames Heritage Association Board: President - Kathy Svec; Vice-President - Carole Jensen; Secretary - Letitia Hansen; Treasurer - Peggy Baer; Jorgen Rasmussen, Lynn Jenison, Margaret Elbert Benson, Catherine Hunt, Janet Jepeway, Leo Lawler, Micki Nelson, Dennis Wendell. The Board meets the second Monday of each month.

Ames Heritage Association is an incorporated, 501C3 not-for-profit organization dedicated to promoting interest in state and local history through publications, programs and exhibitions and the operation of two historic sites. Headquarters: 108 5th, Ames; Phone: 515-232-2148, amesheritage@qwest.net.

The Intelligencer newsletter is published four times a year for AHA members. Direct comments & questions to: Editor, PO Box 821, Ames, IA 50010.

Hoggatt School is located on the grounds of Meeker School, near 18th and Burnett, Ames, IA. Open April 1 through October 31.

Bauge Log Home is east & north McFarland Park's lake. The park is 1/2 mile east of Dayton Rd at 56461 180th Street. Open Sundays during good weather months.

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